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— NEWS RELEASE —

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SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

Abilene, TX – September 22, 2015 – The Texas Book Festival has awarded the South Branch of the Abilene Public Library a collections enhancement grant of \$2,500. The grant will be used to fund Literacy Kits for children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade to promote learning and encourage family literacy. Kits will include books with audio CDs, educational materials, literacy activities, and supplemental items in a variety of reading and interest levels. Kits are now available for checkout at the South Branch Library.

“We are extremely grateful to receive this grant,” said Lori Grumet, City Librarian. “The funds will enable us to enhance the children’s collection in the areas of literacy development, which benefits both children and their families who utilize the kits by encouraging family participation and promoting learning and reading.”

Every year public libraries across Texas apply to the Texas Book Festival to receive grant funds. The grants are intended to update and increase book collections. This year, the Festival is distributing grants up to \$2,500 to 34 libraries. Since its founding, the Festival has contributed more than \$2.7 million in grants to more than 600 Texas public libraries.

“Our public libraries provide invaluable services that advance the causes of literacy, education and life-long learning. We are committed to supporting the important work of Texas public libraries,” said Lois Kim, Executive Director of the Texas Book Festival. “We are proud that we can continue to help libraries meet the needs of their community.”

The Texas Book Festival raises money for the grants from individual, corporate, and foundation sponsorships, the annual Gala, and from book sales at the annual Festival. The 2015 Texas Book Festival is scheduled for October 17 and 18.

About the Texas Book Festival

The Texas Book Festival celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by first lady Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of volunteers, the nonprofit Texas Book Festival promotes the joys of reading and writing through its annual Festival Weekend, the one-day Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars program, grants to Texas libraries, youth fiction writing contest, and year-round literary programming. The Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol each fall and features more than 280 renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and children’s activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.